Remarks

The applicants respectfully traverse the Restriction Requirement and believe that the Restriction Requirement is improper for the following reasons.

The Examiner has listed 2 generic claims and 5 different species, but the Examiner has not indicated which claims are covered by his species' designations. The applicant believes that the following claim groupings are based on the Examiner's species designations: Species I, claims 2 and 11; Species II, claims 3-5 and 12-14; Species III, claims 6 and 15; Species IV, claims 7 and 16; and Species V, claims 8 and 17. The applicants cannot determine if the Examiner has specified a species directed to claims 9 and 18. The applicants thus believe the Restriction Requirement is improper and respectfully request clarification.

The applicants furthermore respectfully submit that the Restriction Requirement improperly designates the dependent claims as species as "independent or distinct because they do not overlap in scope, are not obvious variants, and can have a materially different design, mode of operation, function, or effect." The applicants also submit that the Restriction Requirement is improper because there is no indication that the classification or field of search would not be the same. In particular, the five species of claims 2-8 all depend from and contain the limitations of claim 1, which is drawn to a "method for transmitting a message packet from a first node to a second node in a data processing system." Claim 1 recites the method step of "assembling said message packet for direct memory to memory transfer", and claim 2 (Species I) recites that "said assembling further comprises preloading data..." Claim 3 (Species II) also depends from claim 1 and adds the limitations of "providing a plurality of channels comprising paths for communication... and providing a channel state register." Claims 4 and 5 depend from claim 3 and are thus included in Species II. The applicants respectfully submit that the field of search, involving methods for transmitting message packets in data processing systems, would be the same for claims 2 and 3-5, each of which has been designated as a separate species, and each of which depend from and contain the limitations of claim 1. This is likewise the case for Species III (claim 6) because claim 6 involves adding a push/pull descriptor list to the method of transmitting message packets in data processing system of claim 1. Again, the field of search would be the same. Species IV (claim 7) adds determination of a master side and a slave side of
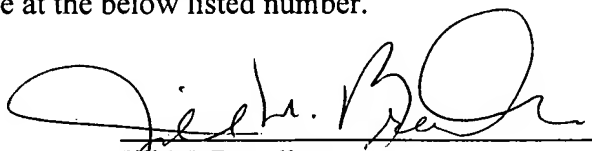
the data processing system of claim 1, and again would involve the same field of search. Species V (claim 8) adds time of day information for adapter synchronization to the message packet transmitting method of claim 1, and again would involve the same field of search. With respect to claim 9, the applicants believe that no species has been identified, but also respectfully submit that adding message packet header information to the message packet transmitting method of claim 1 would likewise involve the same field of search.

The same analysis as given above for claims 1-9 would apply to corresponding (generic) claim 10 and claims 11-18 respectively dependent therefrom.

Therefore, the applicants respectfully submit that the classification and field of search for the message packet transmitting method and system of claims 1 and 10, and the claims dependent therefrom, would be the same. Furthermore, the applicants respectfully submit that there is not an unreasonable number of dependent (or species) claims. In particular, it appears that the Restriction Requirement merely designates a separate and distinct species for each dependent claim, despite the fact that all would be in the same field of search. The applicants respectfully submit that the Restriction Requirement is thus improper.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement are, therefore, respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any further concerns regarding this application, he is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the below listed number.

Jill M. Breedlove
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No.: 32,684

Dated: March 23 2006.

HESLIN ROTHENBERG FARLEY & MESITI P.C.
5 Columbia Circle
Albany, New York 12203-5160
Telephone: (518) 452-5600
Facsimile: (518) 452-5579